

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

During the telephone conversation, the Examiner indicated that the certified priority document previously submitted by Applicants had been lost by the U.S. Patent and Trademark and request that another certified copy of the priority be submitted. Applicants have complied with the Examiner's request. Acknowledgement of the receipt of the certified copy of the priority document is respectfully requested.

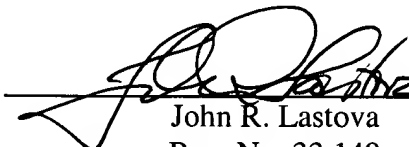
Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 14-18 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 5, 6, and 11. In order to expedite prosecution of this application, claim 1 now incorporates the allowable features of claim 5, and therefore claim 1 and its dependents claims should now be allowed. Allowable claims 3, 6, and 11 have been rewritten in independent claim format and should likewise be allowed.

The application is in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.

By: _____


John R. Lastova
Reg. No. 33,149

JRL:at
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100